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# Greek Coup Caught U.S. By Surprise

A strong hope that the military junta will return Greece to constitutional, parliamentary government, as it promises, was expressed here today by U.S. Ambassador to Greece Phillips Talbot.

A top State Department trouble shooter, Talbot admitted that the U.S. government was "caught by surprise" by the junta coup last April 21.

Moreover, he flatly denied any covert U.S. hand, such as CIA, in the matter.

TALBOT ASSERTED that U.S. review of whether or not to continue the massive military aid program to Greece, in view of recent developments, soon will be completed.

-KING Constantine has acquiesced in the new military regime, the ambassador said.

While Talbot didn't detail the matter in a brief interview, the king evidently acquiesced because he had little choice and since the junta had pledged it will proceed with the new constitution.

A CONSTITUTIONAL committee, the ambassador observed, is scheduled to report at the end of November and, thereafter, a plebiscite of the people is to follow, a principal step toward return to constitutionality.

Talbot confirmed that the regime's strict (some said totalitarian) rule has been "softened." Press censorship, for example, has been relieved, he said.

SINCE 1946, THE U.S. has poured more than \$3.5 billion into Greece; fiscal 1966 included \$80 million, \$78.7 million of which was military.

The ambassador, his wife and son are visiting relatives here: Talbot's mother, Mrs. Kenneth H. Talbot, resides at 4314 N. 20th St., with his sister, Virginia; his brother, Arthur, lives at 3122 W. Sells Drive.



PHILLIPS TALBOT

*Talbot, Phillips*  
*CIA 4 Greece*